



IV-55

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

P.O. Box 1269
100 Circle Drive
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
Ph# (208) 267-3519
Fax (208) 267-2960

RECEIVED

JAN 26 2012

Office Of The Executive

January 25, 2012

Mr. Dennis McLerran
Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region X
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

Re: Idaho Proposed Fish Consumption Rate

Dear Regional Administrator McLerran:

Thank you for meeting with Tribal staff on January 27, 2012 in Boise to discuss the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) pending action on the State of Idaho's proposed fish consumption rate of 17.5 grams per day.

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho is headquartered in the Kootenai Valley in north Idaho. Kootenai Territory encompasses north Idaho, northwest Montana and southwest British Columbia. Watersheds within our Territory include the Kootenai and Pend Oreille.

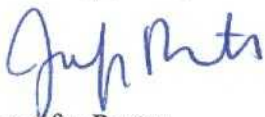
The Tribe historically relied upon the fish and other resources for subsistence and religious practices. Unfortunately, human-induced changes to the ecosystem have resulted in decreases of fish populations to the point that Kootenai citizens are unable to fully exercise their Treaty reserved rights to fish at usual and accustomed areas.

The Tribe lacks sufficient data at this time to recommend a fish consumption rate for the current period or what it will be once the fisheries are recovered and restored. To that end, the Tribe expects EPA to work closely with the Tribe to gather sufficient data for each watershed within its Territory to determine the appropriate fish consumption.

Until such time as watershed specific data can be gathered, the Tribe agrees that proposed fish consumption rate of 17.5 grams per day is likely sufficient.

We look forward to working with EPA on this and other important issues taking place in Kootenai Territory.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jup Porter", written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Porter
Chairperson

cc: Upper Columbia United Tribes